

**CLAIMS 7 and 14:**

7. (Draft-Twice Amended) The image-forming process according to claim 1, wherein a center-line average roughness R<sub>a</sub> [according to JIS B0601-1994] of the surface layer [of the photosensitive member] is in a [the] range of 0.01 to 0.9  $\mu\text{m}$ , and wherein an [the] average inclination  $\Delta a$  of a roughness curve f(x) is in a [the] range of 0.001 to 0.06, as defined by the following equation:

$$\Delta a = \frac{1}{\ell} \int_0^\ell \left| \frac{dy}{dx} \right| dx$$

where y is a height in a Y direction at a point [x] of [a] the curve extending a distance x in an X direction, and  $\ell$  is a length of the curve.--

14. (Draft-Twice Amended) The image-forming process according to claim 8, wherein an [a center-line] average roughness R<sub>a</sub> [according to JIS B0601-1994] of a center line of the surface layer [of the photosensitive member] is in a [the] range of 0.01 to 0.9  $\mu\text{m}$ , and

wherein an [the] average inclination  $\Delta a$  of a roughness curve f(x) is in a [the] range of 0.001 to 0.06, as defined by the following equation:

$$\Delta a = \frac{1}{\ell} \int_0^\ell \left| \frac{dy}{dx} \right| dx$$

where y is a height in a Y direction at a point [x] of a curve extending a distance x in an X direction, and  $\ell$  is a length of the curve.--

page 17, lines 13-14: "an intermediate image-transfer member in a cylinder shape"  
page 19, lines 20-21: "a belt-shaped intermediate image-transfer member"  
page 70, lines 12-13: "intermediate transferring element (an intermediate image-transferring belt)"

### CLAIM 1

1. (Draft-Twice Amended) An image-forming process for use in an electrophotographic system employing an image forming apparatus equipped with a photosensitive member including a photoconductive layer, an intermediate layer composed of a silicon-based non-monocrystalline material, and a surface layer composed of a non-monocrystalline material formed in the foregoing order on a peripheral surface [face] of [a substantially-cylindrical] an electroconductive substrate, and [a substantially-cylindrical] an intermediate image transfer element [member] in contact with the [a] surface layer [of the photosensitive member], and rotating the photosensitive member and the intermediate image-transfer element [member] at a prescribed relative speed, said image-forming process comprising:

an electrifying step of electrifying the surface layer [of the photosensitive member];

a latent image-forming step of forming an electrostatic latent image by projection of light onto the electrified surface layer [electrified in said electrifying step];

a developing step for forming a toner image by providing [deposition of] a toner on the surface layer bearing the electrostatic latent image [formed by said latent image-forming step];

an image-transferring step for transferring the toner image [formed in said developing step] onto the intermediate image-transfer element [member]; [and]

repeating said electrifying step, said latent image-forming step, said developing step, and said transferring step a plurality of times to form a plurality of toner images in superposition on the intermediate image-transfer element [member]; and

a transferring step of transferring the toner images formed in superposition on the intermediate image-transfer element [member] onto a recording sheet,

wherein the photosensitive member and the intermediate image-transfer element [member] are brought into contact at a contact line [face] and at a contact temperature in a [the] range of 15 °C to 60 °C at the prescribed relative speed [of the photosensitive member to the intermediate image-transfer member] to achieve a kinetic frictional force deviation (a standard deviation of a kinetic frictional force), which is less than an average value of the kinetic frictional force.

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